

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 136934
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TO ALL OECD CAPITALS PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 136934

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EINV, ECOSOC, UN

SUBJECT: OECD MINISTERIAL-ILLCIT PAYMENTS

REFS: (A) STATE 134235; (B) STATE 124539; (C) STATE 124538

1. U.S. WISHES TO PROPOSE FOLLOWING TEXT ON ILLICIT
PAYMENTS FOR INCLUSION IN COMMUNIQUE OF OECD MINISTERIAL.

2. QUOTE: THE OECD GOVERNMENTS WELCOME THE WORK BEING
DONE IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL ON CORRUPT
PRACTICES IN INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL TRANSACTIONS, AND
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PAGE 02 STATE 136934

URGE THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL TO TAKE THE MEASURES
NECESSARY TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS IN 1978. UNQUOTE.

3. THIS WOULD FOLLOW UP ON COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER LONDON
ECONOMIC SUMMIT (SEE REFTEL C) AND TAKE IT ONE STEP FURTHER
BY ENDORSING A SPECIFIC AGREEMENT IN A SPECIFIC TIME FRAME.

4. USMISSION OECD IS REQUESTED TO DO ITS BEST TO OBTAIN INCLUSION OF THIS LANGUAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS ON COMMUNIQUE WHICH TAKE PLACE BEFORE JUNE 23-24 MEETING. OTHER ACTION POSTS SHOULD BRING THIS TEXT TO ATTENTION OF HOST GOVERNMENTS AND SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT.

5. POSTS SHOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS IN PROPOSING THIS LANGUAGE: (1) PRESIDENT CARTER PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON EARLY CONCLUSION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS; (2) LONDON COMMUNIQUE EXPRESSED SUPPORT OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FOR THIS IMPORTANT WORK; (3) IF LONDON AGREEMENT IS TO BE MEANINGFUL, ECOSOC MUST MAKE SERIOUS EFFORT TO CONCLUDE AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT AND OECD GOVERNMENTS MUST TAKE CLEAR POSITION IN SUPPORT OF SUCH AN EFFORT.

6. SOME GOVERNMENTS ARE LIKELY TO ARGUE THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO AGREE TO CONCLUDING AGREEMENT IN 1978, SINCE IMPORTANT SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES AMONG DC'S REMAIN AND SINCE MANY LDC'S ARE NOT IN FAVOR OF ILLICIT PAYMENTS AGREEMENT. MISSION CAN POINT OUT IN RESPONSE THAT SUBSTANTIVE DIFFERENCES ARE BEING NARROWED; THAT A NUMBER OF LDC'S SUPPORT AN AGREEMENT; DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO WORK FOR AN AGREEMENT WILL IMPROVE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS WITHOUT PREJUDICING POSITION OF ANY GOVERNMENT AS TO SUBSTANCE. VANCE

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